

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 5 has been added as a new claim. No new matter has been added.

I. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In particular, the Examiner objected to the abstract for being over 150 words and for a minor typographical error.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the abstract so as to address the Examiner's objections. Applicant also notes that other changes have been made to the specification and abstract for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to the specification.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that the claimed phrase "the right and the left side" does not have proper antecedent basis, and that the feature in claim 2, line 5 is unclear.

By this amendment, Applicant notes that the above-noted phrases have been amended so as to address the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hetherington et al. (U.S. 6,388,686) in view of Kurtenback (U.S. 5,689,667).

Claim 1, as amended, recites that the display controlling means is operable to, in response to an input operation into the operation element, move the current item frame to either the first side or the second side so as to overlap one of the foreground item frames, and move the other of the foreground item frames to the central zone, such that an item frame, which was adjacent to the other of the foreground item frames before the other of the foreground item frames was moved to the central zone, is displayed in the foreground. Applicant respectfully submits that Hetherington and Kurtenback do not teach or suggest such a combination of features.

Regarding Hetherington, Applicant notes that this reference discloses a display device which is able to selectively change a current display item that is being displayed in a display area (see Fig. 2A). In particular, as shown in Fig. 2A of Hetherington, the display device is provided with a display area 204, a group of display items 206a-206f, and a display control 208 which operates to change the display item (i.e., one of 206a-206f) being displayed in the display area 204 (see col. 4, lines 1-7).

As explained in Hetherington, the display control 208 includes radio-button type indicators 208a-208f arranged in a circular pattern, wherein the indicators 208a-208f correspond to the display items 206a-206f and identify which of the display items 206a-206f is currently being displayed in the display area 204 (see Fig. 2A and col. 4, lines 26-30). Upon each actuation of the display control 208 (e.g., by clicking on the display area occupied by the display

control 208), it is possible to change the display item that is displayed in the display area 204 (see col. 4, lines 8-12).

For example, as explained in Hetherington, the current display item being displayed in display area 204 may be display item 206a, but will change, upon each actuation of the display control 208, first to display item 206b, then to display item 206c, then to display item 206d, then to display item 206e, and then to display item 206f, before returning to display item 206a (see Fig. 2A and col. 4, lines 12-18).

In the Office Action, the Examiner has taken the position that the indicators 208a-208f of Hetherington correspond to the "item frames" as set forth in claim 1 (see Office Action at page 4).

As is evident from the foregoing description of Hetherington, however, while Hetherington discloses the ability to successively display a plurality of display items in the display area 204 by actuating the display control 208 having the indicators 208a-208f, Applicant respectfully submits that Hetherington does not disclose or in any way suggest the ability to move the indicators 208a-208f.

In other words, in Hetherington, upon each actuation of the display control 208, while a different one of the indicators 208a-208f will be highlighted (e.g., indicator 208c in Fig. 2A), thereby indicating which one of the display items is currently being displayed in the display area 204, the indicators themselves are not moved upon the actuation of the display control 208.

Thus, as Hetherington does not disclose the ability to move the indicators 208a-208f, Applicant respectfully submits that Hetherington clearly does not disclose or suggest the feature

recited in amended claim 1 of a display controlling means that is operable to, in response to an input operation into the operation element, move the current item frame to either the first side or the second side so as to overlap one of the foreground item frames, and move the other of the foreground item frames to the central zone, such that an item frame, which was adjacent to the other of the foreground item frames before the other of the foreground item frames was moved to the central zone, is displayed in the foreground.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Kurtenback does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Hetherington. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the cited prior art does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious all of the features recited in amended claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested.

Regarding claims 2-4 and new claim 5, Applicant notes that each of these claims depends from claim 1 and is therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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